

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has amended the application and respectfully requests reconsideration thereof. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Sections 3 - Objection to the title of the invention

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention because it is not descriptive. According to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has amended the title of the invention so that it is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to review and approve this amendment to the specification.

Sections 5-6: Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 6, 36, 43-44, 57-59, 76-80, and 89 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,875,332 to Wang et al (hereinafter referred to as Wang).

Claims 4-5, 7-35, 37-38, 45-57, 60-73, 81-88, 90-101 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,905 to Brandt et al. (hereinafter referred to as Brandt).

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or

suggestion to make the claimed combination must be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-101 are not obvious over Wang, either alone or in view of Brandt, for the reasons and explanations set out below.

As to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Wang and Brandt do not teach, disclose, or suggest the following element:

"allowing said user to configure a set of actions to be performed in processing a submission of said form, comprising:

. . . presenting said user with a user interface to allow said user to input specification for said set of actions to be performed in processing said submission of said form . . ."

Wang discloses a method and an apparatus for generating a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) adaptor customized for a stored procedure (Wang, Abstract, Col. 1, lines 44-46). The method and apparatus as disclosed in Wang includes a builder program (also called builder herein) that creates a CGI adaptor customized for the stored procedure. Wang discloses that the application developers can provide their stored procedure to the builder which creates a CGI adaptor customized for the stored procedure (Wang, Abstract, Col. 1, lines 47-49). Specifically, Wang discloses that, in order to generate or create the CGI adaptor, the builder parses

the stored procedure to identify the arguments of the stored procedure and then, using the stored procedure arguments, the builder generates logic to extract variables from an input data stream that correspond to the arguments of the stored procedure (Wang, Abstract, Col. 1, lines 46-55, Col. 2, lines 30-39, Figure 5). In addition, Wang discloses that an application developed need only write an HTML input form and the stored procedure. The stored procedure is sent to the builder program which automatically generates a CGI adaptor customized for the stored procedure. The CGI adaptor handles the input interface between the user input and the stored procedure (Wang, Col. 2, lines 29-39). However, Wang does not disclose or suggest any method, apparatus, or system that includes the above-recited element of claim 1. Specifically, it is recognized on page 3 of the Office Action that Wang does not teach *presenting said user with a user interface to allow said user to input specification for said set of actions to be performed in processing said submission of said form.* Wang does not teach or suggest any mechanism or method to allow a user to provide specification for a set of actions to be performed in processing a submission of a form. In contrast, Wang assumes that a particular stored procedure has already been written (i.e., stored procedure already exists) to process the submission of a particular form with the CGI adaptor handling the interface between the user input data and the stored procedure (Wang, Col. 2, lines 29-39). In

particular, the CGI adaptor as disclosed in Wang receives input data from an HTML form, extracts therefrom the variables that correspond to arguments of the stored procedure and invokes the stored procedure with the extracted variables (Wang, Col. 2, lines 29-39, Col. 4, lines 43-49). Thus, it is clear that Wang does not teach or suggest any mechanism or method that allows a user to specify a set of actions to be performed in processing a form's submission. Accordingly, Wang does not disclose, teach, or suggest the above-recited element of claim 1.

Brandt discloses a system for accessing different application programs over the world wide web (WWW) via a common user interface (Brandt, Abstract, Col. 3, lines 57-65). Brandt states that the system provides a graphical common user interface to multiple software applications by multiple software vendors from a web browser over the WWW (Brandt, Col. 9, lines 7-12). Specifically, the system as disclosed in Brandt includes one or more computers executing a web browser, a web server application, an application gateway, and at least one software application (Brandt, Col. 9, lines 11-14). Brandt states that the system allows a user to access multiple software applications using a common user interface as follows: the user inputs data via the web browser; the data is communicated to the web server application; the web server application authenticates the web browser and passes appropriate input data to an application gateway; the application gateway then

facilitates a response to the request by formatting the appropriate commands to the software application; and the software application responds by outputting the appropriate data to the application gateway which includes an identifier that can be used to match the output data with the specific web browser that requested the output data (Brandt, Col. 9, lines 16-27). However, Brandt does not teach or suggest the above-recited element of claim 1. Specifically, Brandt does not teach or suggest any method, mechanism or system for *allowing a user to configure a set of actions to be performed in processing a submission of a form including presenting said user with a user interface to allow said user to input specification for said set of actions to be performed in processing said submission of said form.* In contrast, it is clear that the various software applications to be accessed by a common user interface as disclosed in Brandt already exist and Brandt does not disclose or suggest any system or method to allow users to configure the functions or behavior of these software applications.

Because Wang and Brandt do not teach or suggest the above-recited element of claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Since claims 2-18 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-18 are also not obvious over Wang in view of

Brandt. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

As to claim 19, Applicant respectfully submits that Wang and Brandt do not teach, disclose, or suggest the following element for the reasons and explanations provided above with respect to claim 1:

"presenting to the first author a user interface including a set of questions that are constructed based upon the extracted specification information with respect to the one or more input fields, the user interface allowing the first author to specify one or more specific actions that are to be performed in processing submissions of the first form."

Because Wang and Brandt do not teach or suggest the above-recited element of claim 19, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 19 be withdrawn.

Since claims 20-27 depend from claim 18 and include additional limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-27 are also not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

As to claim 28, Applicant respectfully submits that Wang and Brandt do not teach, disclose, or suggest the following element for the reasons and explanations provided above with respect to claim 1:

"second programming logic to present to the first author a first user interface including a list of questions generated, the first user interface allowing the first author to provide configuration information with respect to a set of actions to be performed in response to a submission of the first form."

Because Wang and Brandt do not teach or suggest the above-recited element of claim 28, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 28 is not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 28 be withdrawn.

Since claims 29-35 depend from claim 28 and include additional limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 29-35 are also not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

As to claim 36, Applicant respectfully submits that Wang and Brandt do not teach, disclose, or suggest the following element for the reasons and explanations provided above with respect to claim 1:

"a second module to obtain from the first author configuration information for a set of actions to be performed in processing a submission of the first form and to configure a first program using the configuration information obtained from the first author, the first program being designated as a processing program for the first form."

Because Wang and Brandt do not teach or suggest the above-recited element of claim 36, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 36 is not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 36 be withdrawn.

Since claims 37-42 depend from claim 36 and include additional limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 37-42 are also not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

As to claim 43, Applicant respectfully submits that Wang and Brandt do not teach, disclose, or suggest the following element for the reasons and explanations provided above with respect to claim 1:

"allowing a first author of a first form who is located at a first location to remotely configure a first program's functions at a second location, the first program to perform its corresponding functions in processing submissions of the first form"

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 43 is not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 43 be withdrawn.

Because claims 44-75 depend from claim 43 and include additional limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 44-75 are also not obvious over Wang in view of

Brandt. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 76, 81, and 89, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt for the reasons and explanations provided above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Because claims 77-80 depend from claim 76, claims 82-88 depend from claim 81, claims 90-101 depend from claim 89, and include additional limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 77-80, 82-88, and 90-101 are also not obvious over Wang in view of Brandt. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Summary

Having made the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance, which is now earnestly solicited.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

There are no amendments to the claims in this response.

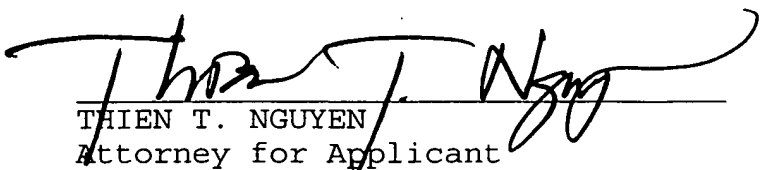
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

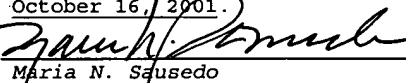
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THIEN T. NGUYEN
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 43,835

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(714) 557-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:
October 16, 2001.


Maria N. Sausedo

10/16/01
Date